

TODAY

The New York Times

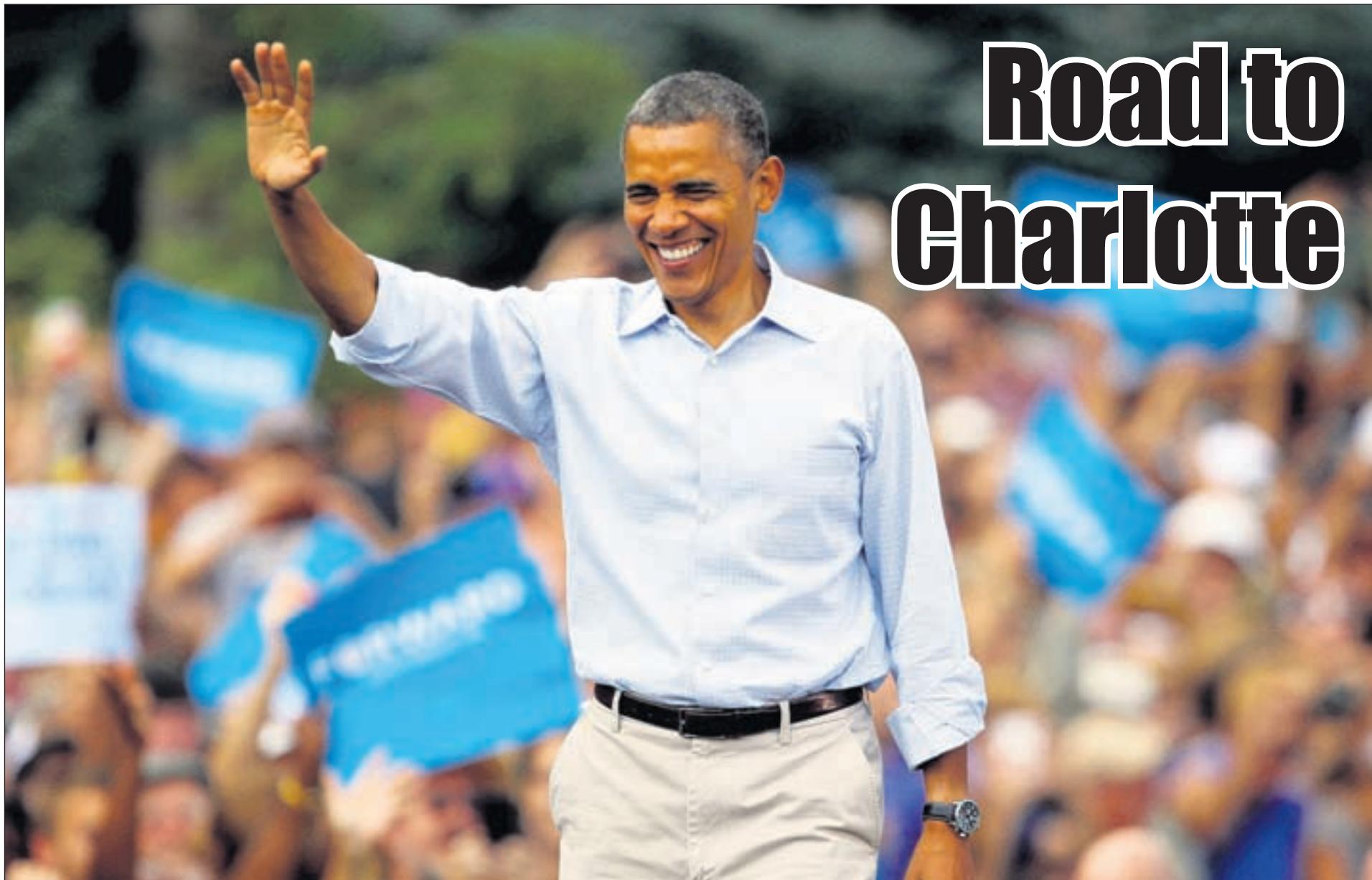
INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY

Aruba

TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Monday, September 3, 2012

Road to Charlotte



President Barack Obama waves as he walks on stage during campaign stop on the campus of the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo., on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Obama says to offer 'a better path forward' at DNC

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — President Barack Obama and his supporters will seek to convince voters at the Democratic Par-

ty national convention to stick with the president they know rather than gamble on someone new — a challenge since most Americans

say the country is heading in the wrong direction. Democratic loyalists will fill the stadium where Obama accepts the nomination

Thursday night, but the president's target audience is the small sliver of undecided voters in battleground states who will be

critical to the outcome of what polls show is a tight race with two months to go.

Continued on next page



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Obama says to offer 'a better path forward' at DNC

Continued from front

"This Thursday, I will offer you what I believe is a better path forward, a path that grows this economy, creates more jobs and strengthens the middle class," Obama said Saturday in Urbandale, Iowa, previewing his pitch. "And the good news is, you get to choose which path we take."

Obama was in Colorado

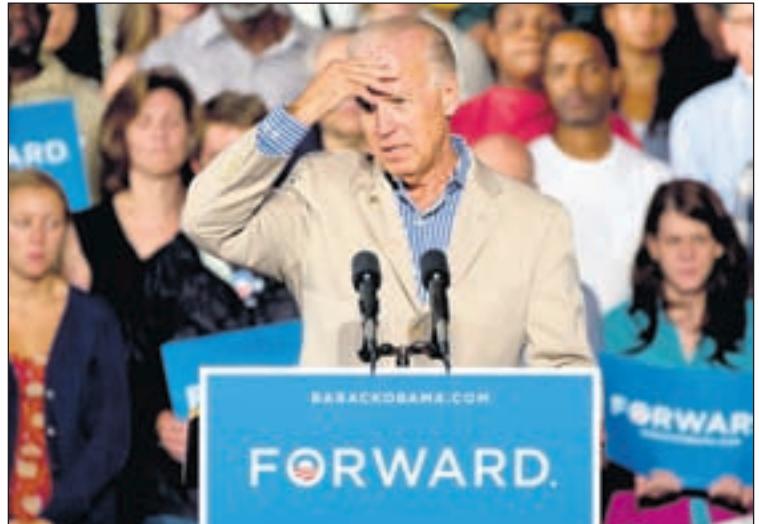
Sunday for an appearance before college students at the University of Colorado, part of a tour of four battleground states billed as "The Road to Charlotte."

His Republican rival, Mitt Romney spoke at rallies in Ohio and Florida on Saturday before flying to his vacation home in New Hampshire for some time off. Campaign officials said the former Massachusetts governor would spend much

of the Democrats' convention week doing preparation for his three crucial debates with Obama.

At the convention, Obama's campaign will try to revive some of its insurgent, grassroots appeal from 2008 by using technology to let people participate in the convention. That effort also will help Obama's team collect more data on voters.

Starting Tuesday, a parade



Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign event at West York Area High School, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012, in York, Pa. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

of high-profile speakers will stand on a blue-carpeted stage in Charlotte's Time Warner Cable Arena to vouch for Obama's economic agenda, which his team says is focused on the middle class: ending tax cuts for the rich and reducing the debt, while spending more on education, energy and infrastructure. Several voters — called "American Heroes" by Obama's team — also will speak at and appear in videos at the convention, putting a human face on Obama's program.

The Democratic convention starts less than a week after Republicans gathered in Tampa, Florida, to nominate Romney and Wisconsin congressman Paul Ryan as his vice presidential running mate. Democrats hope that by holding their convention second, Obama can emerge with momentum on his side as the race for the White House bounds into its final stretch. □

Obama will largely be responsible for generating that momentum. He will close the convention Thursday night with a speech in an outdoor football stadium, just as he did in Denver in 2008. Mindful of the comparisons to four years ago, Obama's campaign is scrambling to ensure that the 74,000-seat stadium is filled to capacity. The largest crowd Obama has drawn during the 2012 campaign is about 14,000 people, far less than the jaw-dropping crowds he attracted in the 2008 campaign. □

As in 2008, the campaign will use the large gathering to register voters and recruit new volunteers through text messaging and Twitter. Aides say Obama won't ignore the economic woes that have defined his four years in the White House. But they say he plans to focus largely on the future, and why he believes his policies will succeed in a second term. □



A man walks near a sand sculpture created in the likeness of President Barack Obama in downtown, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012, in Charlotte, N.C. (AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

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Mormons praise Romney for spotlighting the faith

KASIE HUNT

Associated Press

WOLFEBORO, New Hampshire (AP) — Republican Mitt Romney, the first Mormon presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party, sat in the Wolfeboro Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Sunday as, one by one, members of his congregation credited him for bringing the faith more into the public eye.

"There has never been as much positive publicity about the church ... thanks to the wonderful campaign of Mitt Romney and his family," J.W. "Bill" Marriott, the chairman of Marriott International, said. Marriott was the first in the congregation to take the podium to offer testimony — examples of his own life experience and how it has affected his faith, a tradition on the first Sunday of every month in the Mormon church.

"Everybody is looking at us and saying, 'Are you as good as the Romneys?'" Marriott said. "Today we see the church coming out of obscurity, and we see that 90 percent of what has been written and said ... 90 percent of it has been favorable," he said. "And that's a great tribute to Mitt and Ann."

Many Americans have long viewed Mormonism skeptically, and the Salt Lake City-based church has fought for decades for recognition and acceptance as a faith.

In the eyes of Mormons gathered here Sunday, Romney winning the nomination has been overwhelmingly positive for their church.

"He's a marvelous ambassador of who we are," said



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and his wife Ann, leave the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints after services on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012 in Wolfeboro, N.H.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

a member of the Archibald family, another large Mormon clan that, like the Marriots and the Romneys, vacations in Wolfeboro.

The Marriott and Romney families have been friends for several generations. Romney, whose full name is Willard Mitt Romney, was named in part after J. Willard Marriott, the founder of the hotel chain. His heir is a major campaign donor and the candidate used to serve on the board of Marriott International.

Romney has long shied away from talking about a faith that has shaped his life, from his childhood to his college years as well as his marriage and business career. He occasionally has recounted his time counseling families who were struggling members of his Boston congregation. He usually doesn't touch on his two years serving as a missionary in France for the church. And he typically doesn't mention that

he at one point rose to a rank equivalent to a bishop and presided over a group of congregations.

In recent weeks, Romney has started to open up about his faith and directly mentioned it during his Thursday night acceptance speech after members of his congregation took the convention stage to praise his work in the church. Said Romney that night: "We were Mormons and growing up in Michigan, that might have seemed unusual or out of place, but I really don't remember it that way. My friends cared more about what sports teams we followed than what church we went to." □

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Flooding, outages remain in Louisiana after Isaac

CAIN BURDEAU

KEVIN MCGILL

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Much of Plaquemines Parish in southern Louisiana was still covered with floodwater Sunday and more than 200,000 people across the state still didn't have any power, five days after Hurricane Isaac ravaged the state. Thousands of evacuees remained at shelters or bunked with friends or relatives. "My family is split up," said Angela Serpas, from severely flooded Braithwaite. Serpas and her daughter were staying with her in-laws while her husband and son were staying in Belle Chasse, a suburban area of the parish.

"This is the second time we've lost our home. We lost it in Katrina," she said, referring to the 2005 hurricane.

At least seven people were killed in the storm in the U.S.



Don Duplantier paddles a pirogue from his flooded home as floodwaters from Hurricane Isaac recede in Braithwaite, La., Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012. Duplantier had retrieved his cat and had collected his daughter's bridesmaid dress for the upcoming wedding of his son.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

— five in Louisiana and two in Mississippi.

President Barack Obama was to visit Louisiana Monday, a day ahead of the Democratic National Convention. Republican presi-

dential nominee Mitt Romney visited the state Friday. Progress was evident in many places. Workers continued their return to off-shore oil and gas production platforms and drilling

rigs, electricity came on for hundreds of thousands of people and the annual Southern Decadence Festival, a gay pride celebration, carried on in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

There were also signs of a slow recovery. Workers continued to deal with toppled trees and downed power lines, driving remained hazardous in areas without working traffic lights, and New Orleans opened two cooling shelters so those with no electricity could escape the heat.

Much of Plaquemines Parish, a vulnerable finger of land that juts into the Gulf of Mexico southeast of New Orleans, remained under as much as 5 feet (1.5 meters) of water, Parish President Billy Nungesser said. The Category 1 hurricane wallop the parish, and for many, the damage was worse than Katrina in

2005.

"I've never seen water come up this quick this fast," he said.

He said there were reports that cattle in the largely rural parish took refuge on porches. In one instance, cattle broke through a window and lumbered onto furniture to stay above water.

Suburban communities farther north also had problems. Near Lake Pontchartrain, St. Tammany Parish officials kept watch over potential trouble spots along Isaac-swollen waterways. An evacuation near the community of Bush was dialed back Sunday after authorities stabilized a lock in danger of failing on the Pearl River Diversion Canal. St. Tammany spokeswoman Suzanne Parsons said officials shifted their focus to the West Pearl River and a flood threat to roughly 5,000 homes there. □

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Police: Pre-DNC protests mostly uneventful

MICHAEL BIESECKER

MITCH WEISS

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina

(AP) — Hundreds of protesters marched through Charlotte's central business district Sunday ahead of the Democratic National Convention in a demonstration that was lively but largely uneventful.

About 800 marchers carried signs and banners, banged drums and chanted on a sunny afternoon as part of the March on Wall Street South. The march's general purpose was to decry corporate greed, but it drew people demonstrating for a variety of causes.

The turnout was a fraction of the thousands organizers were expecting for what had been planned as the week's biggest protest. The convention starts Tuesday. Police Chief Rodney Monroe said things went smoothly and with few problems. At least one person was arrested for intoxication, but he couldn't provide further details. Monroe also said police chased a man holding rocks off an overpass along the march route, but didn't apprehend him. On two occasions, protesters attempted to be disruptive by sitting and locking arms outside of corporate headquarters, but police took no action. About two-dozen sat for about 10 minutes in front of Bank of America's skyscraper but moved on after they were largely ig-



Police Capt. E.D. Patterson fist bumps with demonstrator Vermin Supreme during a protest march, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012, in Charlotte, N.C. Demonstrators are protesting before the start of the Democratic National Convention.

(AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

nored by officers. They had the phone numbers of lawyers written on their arms.

A similar-sized group sat down in front of the headquarters for Duke Energy but eventually got up and left.

The route of the march also took demonstrators by a major office hub for Wells Fargo. It and Bank of America are two of the largest U.S. financial institutions and beneficiaries of massive taxpayer-backed loans during the 2008 bailout of the financial sector. Both banks have also been criticized for their roles in the home foreclosure crisis. Hundreds of officers were

Fire temporarily stops flights at D.C. airports

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Flights at three Washington-area airports were briefly stopped because of a fire at a regional air traffic control facility.

Flights were stopped for about 25 minutes Sunday morning at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport; Dulles International Airport; and Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration says a refriger-

ator caught fire in an office area at an air traffic control facility for the Washington area.

The FAA says the outage affected fewer than 20 flights. FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown says flights were stopped at 8:40 a.m., when the facility was evacuated. Brown said she did not have any other details on the fire.

BWI spokesman Jonathan Dean says the impact at BWI was minimal. □

on hand to monitor the demonstrators. Some walked along with the parade, carrying gas masks, wooden batons and plastic hand ties.

Others stood at intervals of a few feet apart along the route. A police helicopter hovered so low that people on the ground could feel the wind off its rotors. Many officers were seen smiling and chatting with the marchers.

Aided by the pleasant weather, the protesters showed more spirit than their rain-soaked counterparts at last week's Republican National Convention in Tampa. There, effects of Hurricane Isaac's outer bands thinned the ranks of protesters. □

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3 family members fatally stabbed near Nashville

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Authorities said Sunday that a man suspected of fatally stabbing a woman, her teen-aged son and her mother in their Nashville suburban home lived nearby. Police spokesman Don Aaron told The Tennessean that the bodies of 48-year-old Michelle Pinkowski; her son, 14-year-old Jonathan Culpepper, and her mother, Marylea Jordan, were discovered around 3 a.m. Sunday at the Bellevue

home.

Police said the boy's 9-year-old sister witnessed at least one of the killings before running out of the house and getting a neighbor to call authorities. When officers arrived at the home, Aaron said, a bloodied Craig Garber answered the door and told officers to "just kill me". Police said the 41-year-old Garber, who had self-inflicted stab wounds, was in stable condition Sunday at Vanderbilt University Medi-

cal Center and is a suspect in the three deaths. Aaron said Garber lives a few doors down from the family and is known to have "emotional issues." Investigators described the scene inside the home as gruesome.

"The scene is very bloody," Aaron said. "It's not something that you see in Nashville." Aaron said Garber and Pinkowski were seen together on his porch around 11 p.m. Saturday. □



Emergency personnel work the scene where a teenager headed to a sweet 16 party was killed after he stuck his head out of the emergency hatch of a double-decker bus and hit the underside of a highway overpass, along Interstate 95, in Fort Lee, N.J.

(AP Photo/Chris Monroe)

US teen killed putting head out of party bus

Associated Press

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Aaron said Garber and Pinkowski were seen together on his porch around 11 p.m. Saturday. He said the two may have gone to Pinkowski's home, to her finished basement, which is where her body was eventually found.

Police believe Garber then went upstairs and killed the boy in his bedroom and then Jordan. □

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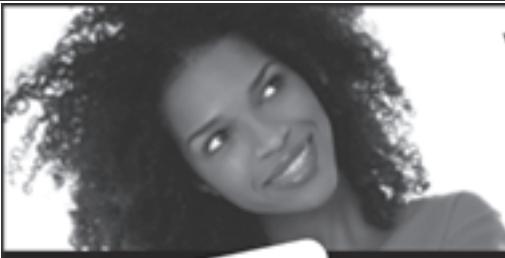
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Hurricane Isaac brings touch of relief to Corn Belt

JACK HEALY

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WARRENTON, Mo. — All through the scorching summer, as their crops withered under cloudless skies, Corn Belt farmers waited and prayed for this moment. Now, courtesy of Hurricane Isaac, it has finally arrived: three days of rain to soak their parched fields and soften the cracked soil.

"It's a dead-still, straight-down rain," Greg Schneider, who lost 80 percent of his corn crop to this summer's drought, said as he watched the storm from his dining room window. "This is exactly the kind of rain we needed."

But the timing was off. They needed this rain — and more — two months ago, when their shriveled corn was broiling in its husks, their pastures were dying and their soybeans were dropping from the vines. Farmers from Missouri to Indiana to Ohio welcomed the 3 to 5 inches of rain Isaac deposited as it churned east across the Midwest, but they said it came too late to save much of this year's failed crop.

"Ain't much we can do at this point," Schneider said. This is corn country, and for the most part, the battle to save the corn is already lost. Nationwide, the government has drastically reduced its estimates for the year's corn yield to the lowest levels since 1995.

Months of searing heat accelerated the growing cycle this summer, and farmers here have already harvested corn that

in normal years would still be ripening. As Isaac approached, many raced to finish hauling in the corn, worried that fierce winds from the storm could flood their fields or mow down the brittle cornstalks, destroying even more of the paltry harvest.

Those fears did not materialize, however. As the rains washed across Missouri over the weekend, they recharged wells, refilled shrunken irrigation ponds and trickled into parched creek beds. Farmers watched happily as their soybean fields drank up the moisture, and ground that had been nearly impermeable to plow blades began to squish underfoot. "Isaac will be a good start," said Scott Killpack, an agronomist at the University of Missouri's extension office in St. Charles

County. "How well they recover, only time will tell." Isaac's rains may fortify younger soybean plants,

whose leaves are not already jaundiced, allowing the beans to plump up on the vine. It should help



Greg Schneider, a farmer in Missouri who lost 80 percent of his corn crop to this summer's drought, stands in a field of soybeans that has survived the lack of rain, in Warrenton, Mo., Sept. 1, 2012. Farmers from Missouri to Ohio welcomed the three to five inches of rain Hurricane Isaac deposited, but it came too late to save much of this year's crop.

(Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

farmers sow winter wheat later this month, and it should help revive the pastures where cattle have been grazing on nubs of dead grass.

But it will take weeks to measure the rain's effect on late-summer crops, and even longer to know whether the storms offered anything more than a teasing break from the drought. The government's latest assessment of the record-breaking drought, released before the shards of the hurricane moved north, contained only the tiniest hints of improvement.

Isaac certainly did not help the entire drought-plagued area, swinging too far east to bring any relief to Plains states like Kansas and Nebraska. And after two brutal summers, even the farmers who benefited were still cautious. □

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Activist groups claim over 5,000 killed in Syria in August

BASSEM MROUE

JAMAL HALABY

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Activist groups said Sunday that about 5,000 people were killed in Syria's civil war in August, the highest figure ever reported in more than 17 months of fighting as President Bashar Assad's regime unleashed crushing air power against the revolt for the first time.

The U.N. children's fund UNICEF put the death toll for last week alone at 1,600, the largest weekly figure for the entire uprising.

"The past month witnessed large massacres and the regime was conducting wide operations to try to crush the uprising," said Omar Idlibi, a Cairo-based activist with the Local Coordination Committees group. "Last month's acts of violence were unprecedented."

He said the increased use of the air force and artillery bombardments was behind the spike in casualties.

The civil war witnessed a major turning point in August when Assad's forces began widely using air power for the first time to try to put down the revolt. The fighting also reached Syria's largest city, Aleppo, which had been relatively quiet for most of the uprising.

The Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that 5,440 people, including 4,114 civilians were killed in August. The LCC put the toll at 4,933 civilians.

On Sunday, the Observatory and the LCC said more than 100 people were killed throughout Syria and the groups have been reporting 100-250 deaths per day over the past week.

Syria's uprising has been the bloodiest in the Arab Spring

that has already removed long-serving authoritarian leaders in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen and Libya.

The two main activists groups also released new

death tolls for the entire uprising since March 2011. The Observatory said more than 26,000 have been killed, including more than 18,500 civilians. The

LCC put the death toll at more than 23,000 civilians. The LCC does not count members of the military who are killed, but the Observatory does.

That averages out to about 1,300-1,500 deaths per month, making the August figure more than three times higher than average.

The groups had previously reported a toll of around 20,000 more than a month ago.

On Thursday, Human Rights Watch said government forces have killed scores of civilians over the past three weeks by bombarding at least 10 areas where they were lining up to buy bread at bakeries near and around Aleppo.

Last week, activists reported that between 300 and 600 people were killed in the Damascus suburb of Daraya during days of shelling and a killing spree by troops who stormed the town after heavy fighting.

"The reason behind the high death toll is military operations, shelling, clashes and air raids," said Rami Abdul-Rahman who heads the Observatory. □



A boy looks back while he and another boy play on a Syrian military tank, destroyed during fighting with the Rebels, in the Syrian town of Azaz, on the outskirts of Aleppo, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012.

(AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

Spain's Rajoy pushes ECB bond program

BERLIN (AP) — Spain's prime minister is urging the European Central Bank to go ahead with a bond-buying program aimed at lowering the borrowing costs of debt-ridden governments like his own, saying in comments published Sunday that eurozone state financing rates need to be similar for the currency union to function.

The ECB holds a meeting Sept. 6 where plans to intervene in bond markets will be discussed, and bank head Mario Draghi has suggested that he was prepared to take "exceptional measures" to restore stability to the 17-nation eurozone.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy told Bild newspaper in an interview published Sunday that Draghi's suggestion that the ECB could help indebted governments lower their borrowing costs by buying their bonds shows "a determination to solve the problem." "A monetary union cannot function when some of its countries finance themselves with negative-interest, while others must raise money with unsustainably high interest rates," Rajoy was quoted as saying.

Troubled eurozone countries like Spain, Italy and Greece have been paying high rates — with 10-year Spanish bond yields cur-

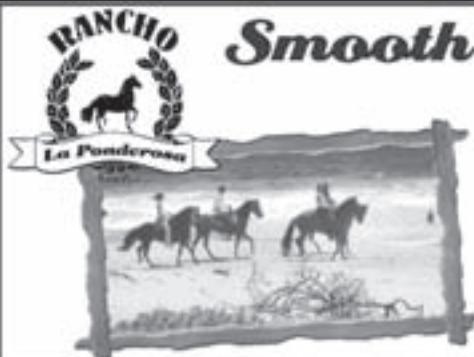
rently at about 6.5 percent — because bond investors fear they may default. Yet the governments must constantly sell new bonds to pay off old ones that are coming due. High borrowing costs were what pushed indebted countries Greece, Ireland and Portugal to need bailout loans from the other eurozone countries.

On the other hand Germany has been borrowing money at below the inflation rate as investors accept taking a loss to hold the super-safe securities.

"Draghi has pointed out that above all, doubts about the irreversibility of the euro, and not any ob-

jective differences in the economic fundamentals of the euro countries, are responsible for this dangerous interest rate differential," Rajoy said. "If we want to preserve the euro, which has brought us greater prosperity, then we must send an unmistakable signal that there will be no going back."

The ECB's plans have sparked a fierce debate in Germany, which is the biggest backer of Europe's financial rescue efforts. The country's national central bank is against the bond-buying idea, along with many academic economists, conservative politicians and voters. □



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A member of Italy's carabinieri instructs new Afghan police recruits as they undergo riot control training at the Central Training Center on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan. The U.S. military has suspended training for at least a month of some Afghan forces while the Americans review the process of vetting new recruits following a spike in deadly attacks on international troops last month, officials said Sunday.

(AP Photo/Altaf Qadri)

HEIDI VOGT
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.S. military has halted the training of some Afghan forces while it digs deeper into their background following a surge of attacks by soldiers and police on their international partners, officials said Sunday. The move only puts about 1,000 Afghan trainees into limbo, a small fraction of the country's security forces.

But it shows how these attacks have the potential to derail the U.S.-Afghan handover of security so essential to the international drawdown strategy. Officials say that the international coalition ultimately hopes to recheck the backgrounds of the entire 350,000-strong Afghan army and police. The United States and its allies are pushing to have Afghan forces take over

security for the country by the end of 2014. This effort has been imperiled by the spike in insider attacks that have killed 45 international service members this year, most of them Americans. There were at least 12 such attacks in August alone, resulting in 15 deaths. The attacks are straining an alliance already stretched by a tense relationship with a notoriously corrupt

Afghan government and disagreements over NATO tactics that Kabul claims endanger civilians. Coalition authorities have said about 25 percent of this year's insider attacks had confirmed or suspected links to the Taliban. The militants have sometimes infiltrated the ranks of the Afghan army and police and in other cases are believed to have coerced or

otherwise persuaded legitimate members to turn on their coalition partners. NATO is currently training thousands of Afghans. The 1,000 put into limbo by the training freeze are part of a 16,000-strong unit dubbed the Afghan Local Police. They are actually much more of a government-backed militia, technically under the authority of the national police but operating independently. □



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Venezuela holds voting drill ahead of election

LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — Venezuela held a national voting drill Sunday ahead of the country's October presidential vote, with President Hugo Chavez facing his toughest electoral challenge in more than 13 years in office.

The country's National Electoral Council said more than 1,500 polling stations opened nationwide for the mock vote. In the streets of Caracas, supporters of Chavez and his challenger Henrique Capriles said the drill largely went smoothly. "This was fast and easy," said Ana Rodriguez, 26, after she pressed down her thumb to activate the ballot box. "I've never voted before but I feel this is the right time to start. The vote is secret, but I have already



A woman searches her name on a voters list during a voting drill in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012. Venezuela's electoral authority is testing the voting process in preparation for the Oct. 7 general elections.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

made up my mind."

Outside the polling station at a school in downtown Caracas, the two political camps had set up tents with loudspeakers blaring mu-

sic. For the Capriles camp, it was salsa and techno, while Chavez's supporters played "llanera," the music of Venezuela's cowboys, infused with lyrics praising

the leftist president.

Vendors were also divided. Jose Adolfo Escamilla sold red hats and berets embroidered with images of Chavez, independence hero Simon Bolivar and Argentine revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

"I'm not going anywhere with Capriles," Escamilla said. "I'm a Chavista to the grave." Nearby, Capriles supporters wore caps with the national flag's yellow, blue and red, which have become the young candidate's signature during his campaign stops. He's visited more than 200 towns

during the past two months.

"This is going to be historic," Octavio Hernandez, a university student, said as he handed out leaflets promoting the opposition candidate. "We're finally going to remove this man."

In a nationally televised interview by phone, Chavez said he was pleased with the results of the drill and congratulated Venezuelans for participating.

"We're giving a demonstration of the efficiency of the Venezuelan people, regardless of where they stand in the political field," he said. □

Mexico's Calderon touts his efforts for a 'lasting security'

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Felipe Calderon delivered the last state-of-the-nation report of his administration Saturday, saying he is leaving Mexico with the foundation for "true and lasting security."

The written report delivered to Congress by Interior Minister Alejandro Poire also said Mexico has a strong and growing economy despite the world's difficult financial environment. Calderon plans to deliver an address based on the report Monday.

The president said Mexico has made the largest investment in its history in security during his six-year administration, allowing the federal police force to be purged of bad officers. He said he also reformed laws

to better coordinate security operations and that federal forces have made historic strikes against organized crime. "Today we have better laws, with modern federal security and justice institutions that are better equipped and trained," Calderon's report said. "The effort has made it possible to build the foundation of a true and lasting security." Calderon touted the transformation of the federal police, which he said has grown from 6,000 officers to 36,000 during his term, including 7,000 college graduates who joined the force. The federal Public Safety Department, which oversees federal police officers, and the Attorney General's Office have vetted 100 percent of their agents with background checks, he added. □

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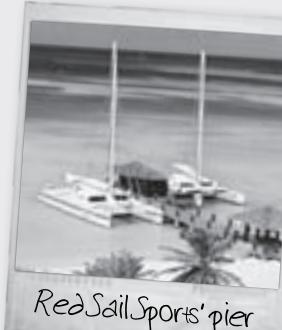
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West Bank settlers hold fast to mission despite eviction

ISABEL KERSHNER

© 2012 New York Times

MIGRON, West Bank — The police officers went door to door on Sunday morning in this hilltop settlement outpost east of the West Bank city of Ramallah, handing out final eviction notices and waiting patiently for residents to come out. One young couple, the Altheims, left quietly, walking down the short path from their mobile home to their car, a tattered Israeli flag flying from the front window, and then driving off. The police said they could hear a television on in the neighboring trailer but when the officers knocked, nobody answered. By early afternoon, however, all 47 of the outpost's families had gone, the police said, well ahead of Tuesday's court-ordered deadline.

The evacuation of this outpost, one of the largest and most established of the wildcat Jewish settlements set up in the West Bank without Israeli government permits over the past 15 years but often with government infrastructure aid, sent a mixed message about the future of the settlement enterprise. The evacuation was ordered by Israel's Supreme Court because the outpost had been built on privately owned Palestinian land. Coming years after the Israeli military issued demolition orders against all the structures, it was seen by many as a modest victory for the rule of law.

Peace Now, the anti-settlement advocacy group that petitioned the court together with several of the Palestinian landowners, said it viewed the final ruling as "a significant achieve-



Police officers evict women refusing to leave their home in Migron, West Bank, Sept. 2, 2012. Following a court order, Israeli authorities evacuated 47 families from the Migron settlement, which the Supreme Court ruled had been built on land owned by Palestinians.

(Rina Castelnuovo/The New York Times)

ment for all those who believe in the two-state solution and in democracy." But Migron is also a story of the settlers' persistence and ultimate staying power.

Although Migron's residents may have lost after six years of legal proceedings, state procrastination and efforts by supporters to purchase the land retroactively, the 47 families will be moving only a short distance down the hill.

There, the state has built a temporary site of small, prefabricated houses in neat rows, at a cost of millions of dollars, to accommodate the families, at least until a permanent neighborhood of hundreds of new homes is completed in the nearby, state-sanctioned settlement of Adam.

"The personal pain is terrible," said Pinchas Waller-

stein, a settler leader, as he watched the evacuation. "But history showed that the evacuation of Sebastia led to the establishment of Elon Moreh," a reference to the roots of the early spurt of the settler movement in the 1970s.

"In the end," he added, "many Migrons will arise."

Most of the world views all Israeli settlements in the West Bank as being in violation of international law, built on land that the Palestinians envisage as part of a future state alongside Israel. But Israel makes a distinction between the 120 or so formal settlements built with official approval and the 100 or so unauthorized outposts in the West Bank, territory it captured from Jordan in the 1967 war. Israel has pledged in the past, under American pressure, to remove many of the outposts, but until Mi-

gron it had mainly dismantled mere dots of settlement consisting of shacks inhabited by teenagers. In June, 30 families were peacefully evacuated from five buildings in a dis-

puted neighborhood of the Beit El settlement, just north of Ramallah, after Israel's Supreme Court ruled that they, too, were built on private Palestinian land.

The evacuation was smoothed by government promises to build hundreds of new settler homes. A few outposts have been retroactively authorized.

The Migron case has divided settlers over how far to defy the authorities, or whether to cooperate with them, and try to co-opt them. Posters on the roadside depicting the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, pronounced, "Bibi is weak and not trustworthy; a right-wing leader needed urgently."

Up until Sunday morning even the settlers of Migron had reached no consensus on how to act, and most of them remained tight-lipped, refusing to speak to reporters about their impending move.

The residents view settling Migron as part of a mission ordained by the Bible. □



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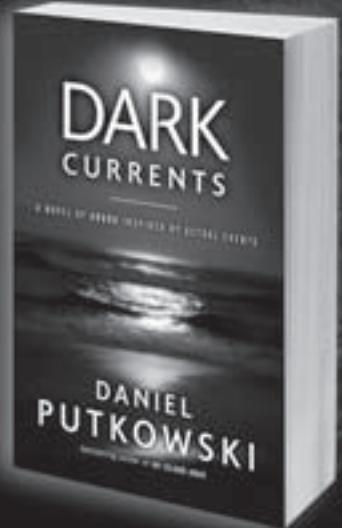
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Unification Church founder Rev. Moon dies at 92

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

GAPYEONG, South Korea

(AP) — The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the self-proclaimed messiah who turned his Unification Church into a worldwide religious movement and befriended North Korean leaders as well as U.S. presidents, has died, church officials said Monday. He was 92.

Moon died Monday at a church-owned hospital near his home in Gapyeong, northeast of Seoul, two weeks after being hospitalized with pneumonia, Unification Church spokesman Ahn Ho-yeul told The Associated Press. Moon's wife and children were at his side, Ahn said. Church officials planned to meet later Monday to discuss mourning and funeral arrangements.

Moon, born in a town that is now in North Korea, founded his religious movement in Seoul in 1954 after surviving the Korean War. He preached new interpretations of lessons from the Bible.

The church gained fame — and notoriety — in the 1970s and 1980s for holding mass weddings of thousands of followers, often from different countries, whom Moon matched up in a bid to build a multicultural religious world.

The church was accused of using devious recruitment tactics and duping followers out of money; parents of followers in the United States and elsewhere expressed worries that their children were brainwashed into joining. The church re-

sponded by saying that many other new religious movements faced similar accusations in their early stages.

In later years, the church adopted a lower profile and focused on building a business empire that included the Washington

Church said Moon married 45,000 people in simultaneous ceremonies worldwide in his first large-scale mass wedding in years. Some were newlyweds and others reaffirmed past vows. He married an additional 7,000 couples in South Korea in February 2010. The ceremo-

lowers with his conservative, family-oriented value system and unusual interpretation of the Bible. He conducted his first mass wedding in Seoul in the early 1960s. The "blessing ceremonies" grew in scale over the next two decades, with a

rea in 1991, when he met the country's founder Kim Il Sung in the eastern industrial city of Hamhung.

Moon said in his autobiography that he asked Kim to give up his nuclear ambitions, and that Kim responded that his atomic program was for peaceful purposes and he had no intention to use it to "kill my own people."

As he grew older, Moon quietly handed over day-to-day control of his multi-billion-dollar religious and business empire, which included dozens of companies ranging from hospitals and universities to a ballet troupe, to his children.

His youngest son, the Rev. Hyung-jin Moon, was named the church's top religious director in April 2008. Other sons and daughters were put in charge of the church's business and charitable activities in South Korea and abroad.

After ending a first marriage, Moon remarried a South Korean, Hak Ja Han Moon, in 1960. She often was at Moon's side for the mass weddings. They have 10 surviving children, church officials said.

The youngest son told The Associated Press in a February 2010 interview that Moon's offspring do not see themselves as his successors.

"Our role is not inheriting that messianic role," he said. "Our role is more of the apostles, where we share ... where we become the bridge between understanding what kind of lives (our) two parents have lived." □



In this Saturday, Sept. 14, 2002 photo, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, center left, and his wife Hak Ja Han Moon walk down a red carpet as they are introduced during the Affirmation of Vows part of the Interreligious and International Couple's Blessing and Rededication Ceremony at New York's Manhattan Center. About 500-600 couples participated in the New York ceremony and an estimated 21 million couples participated worldwide via a simulcast to 185 countries. Rev. Moon, self-proclaimed messiah who founded the Unification Church, has died at age 92 church officials said Monday, Sept. 3, 2012.

(AP Photo/Stephen Chernin)

Times newspaper, the New Yorker Hotel in Manhattan, Bridgeport University in Connecticut, as well as a hotel and a fledgling automaker in North Korea. It acquired a ski resort, a professional soccer team and other businesses in South Korea, and a seafood distribution firm that supplies sushi to Japanese restaurants across the U.S.

The Unification Church claims millions of members worldwide, though church defectors and other critics say the figure is no more than 100,000.

In 2009, the Unification

Church attracted media coverage but little of the controversy that dogged the church in earlier decades. Born in 1920 in what is today North Korea, Moon said he was 16 when Jesus Christ called upon him to complete his unfinished work. While preaching the gospel in North Korea in the years after the country was divided into the communist-backed North and U.S.-allied South, Moon was imprisoned there in the late 1940s for allegedly spying for South Korea — a charge Moon disputed.

He quickly drew young fol-

1982 wedding at Madison Square Garden in New York — the first outside South Korea — drawing thousands of participants.

"International and intercultural marriages are the quickest way to bring about an ideal world of peace," Moon said in a 2009 autobiography. "People should marry across national and cultural boundaries with people from countries they consider to be their enemies so that the world of peace can come that much more quickly."

Moon began rebuilding his relationship with North Ko-

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Manchebo Beach Resort:

First Green Globe Gold Status resort awarded recertification

Sept. 02, 2012-Green Globe announced re-certification of Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa in Aruba, in the Caribbean. Since its initial certification in 2003, this luxury resort has continued to be a leader in sustainability and responsible tourism, and was the first certified Green Globe resort earning prestigious Gold Status in January 2008. "At Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa we promise to preserve a safe and healthy environment for the island of Aruba, its people and visiting guests," said Edgar Roloofs, General Manager at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, "We are very proud of our Green Globe Certification achievements and the international recognition, and it is our goal to con-



tinuously improve our environmental efforts to secure a sustainable future for the business."

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa implemented a long-term sustainability management system, energy goals, and operational performance is strictly monitored. In addition, the hotel con-

ducts various projects on renewable energy sources. The property's zero-impact policy encourages guests to support a carbon-neutral stay and to minimize their environmental footprint. All guest room doors are insulated by weather strips, and the patio sliding doors are tinted with dou-

ble glass to maximize the air conditioners' efficiency. Low-watt warm fluorescent light bulbs are installed in all light fixtures throughout the property. The towel and linen re-use program reduces water and electricity consumption, and room amenities are vegetable based, packaging is made of 100% compostable bottles. Local suppliers and services following best environmental practices are given preference. The resort takes on social responsibility by educating its staff members, guests, suppliers, and community to build environmental awareness and action. Guests are invited to join local environmental and community-related activities, such as the monthly island-wide beach

clean-up. Green Globe Certification's CEO, Guido Bauer, said: "We are extremely pleased about Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa's re-certification and their high compliance rate against Green Globe Certification criteria. This resort demonstrates outstanding commitment and sets benchmarks with their eco-friendly performance in the Caribbean."

ABOUT MANCHEBO BEACH RESORT & SPA

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pling the excellent wines of the Napa Valley and learning an awful lot during this educational week.

Earlier this year, Arion Wine

most of the company's excellent bottles. After departing San Francisco to Napa Valley the wine trip will start at Clos du Val and

dan Winery Estate will be proud to welcome Arion Wine Company's group as well. On Thursday the group is traveling to the awesome Kendall-Jackson Estates; Franciscan Estates and Ravenswood will receive them the following day. The last day of Arion's VIP wine tour is courtesy

of Wente Vineyards, Murrieta's Well, and Tamas Estates included.

The group of winners with Govert van der Hout will be leaving Aruba on the second of September; they are expected back, filled with knowledge, on September 9th. We hope they will have a wonderful trip! □



Company started an incentive program for its Californian wines. The winners were the ones who sold

Silverado Vineyards. The following day the group will be hosted in Sonoma Valley by Simi Winery and Jor-



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The Carubbian Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation and Labour. Operated by the Carubbian Foundation.



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we also carry cover-ups, caftans, hats and beach bags. As part of the 50 year celebration, Eva is running a storewide special of "buy one, get one 50% off during September and October. The stores are located in the Renaissance Mall, Westin Hotel, Casa del Mar, Costa Linda, Radisson Hotel and Holiday inn. Stop in for these specials while they last. □



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Coco is looking for friends



We would like to introduce you to Coco, one of the donkeys that has found shelter at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Coco was found in the Seroe Colorado district. Although she was limping badly, she was not easy to catch. For these cases our stun gun is the only solution. Because Coco's front leg was dislocated and she was walking on the side of her hoof, we went straight to the vet, but after looking at her X-ray, he stated that dislocation was the culprit. He straightened her leg right away; that was easy as Coco was still under sedation. The donkey then had to wear a plaster cast for three weeks; we kept her skin clean and disinfected and now she only has a tiny scar to prove that she has ever been injured. Coco is not limping any longer and together with her fast friend Maartje she is enjoying her life at the Donkey Sanctuary. This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



U.S. Open:

Postponing retirement, Roddick beats Fognini

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Channelling his inner Jimmy Connors, Andy Roddick pounded a forehand passing shot down the line to win a 20-stroke point and thrust both arms overhead, motioning to the U.S. Open spectators to make more noise. Moments later, Roddick hit a volley into an open court and chugged back to the baseline, wagging his right index finger. Yes, Roddick is having a grand ol' time at his retirement party — and he's not done yet. Winning a second consecutive match since announcing the U.S. Open will be the last tournament of his career, 2003 champion Roddick stuck around at least a little longer by getting past 59th-ranked Fabio Fognini of Italy 7-5, 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-4 in the third round Sunday.

"I'm trying to keep my emotions together, all the while trying to appreciate this tournament. You guys have just made it so special," Roddick told the fans during an on-court interview at Arthur Ashe Stadium. "I'm just enjoying it. I love this place, and I love all of you, and I'm having a blast." In the fourth round Tuesday, the last American man to win a Grand



Andy Roddick celebrates after beating Italy's Fabio Fognini in the third round of play at the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012, in New York.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

Slam title will face 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, who needed six match points to defeat Leonardo Mayer 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (9). That 20-point tie-breaker included a backhand by Mayer that somehow ricocheted off the top of a net post and landed on the court. Also advancing: defending champion Novak Djokovic, a straight-set winner against No. 31 Julien Benneteau, and No. 4 David Ferrer, who got past two-time major champion Lleyton Hewitt 7-6 (9), 4-6, 6-3, 6-0. It was last Thursday, Roddick's 30th birthday, that he surprisingly let the world know he had decided to walk away from the sport whenever this visit to Flushing Meadows ends. Sunday just so happened to be five-time U.S. Open champion Connors' 60th birthday — and on the very same date in 1991, Connors celebrated his 39th by coming back to beat Aaron Krickstein in five sets to reach the quarterfinals in New York, a match replayed often during rain delays in more recent times. Connors, who briefly coached Roddick, was at his rabble-rousing, crowd-goaded best on that day 21 years ago, and the pupil provided a more muted rendition this time. □

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Nats top Cards as Strasburg dominates

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stephen Strasburg allowed two hits over six scoreless innings, striking out nine before being pulled Sunday as the Washington Nationals beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-3.

The NL East-leading Nationals took three of four from St. Louis and passed their 80-win total from last season.

Strasburg, rocked for seven runs last Tuesday at Miami, left with a 2-0 lead and a 2.94 ERA. He threw 97 pitches and wound up with a no-decision.

The 23-year-old Strasburg

has struck out a league-leading 195 in 156 1-3 innings this season. The Nationals have repeatedly stated they intend on shutting him down in his first full season since undergoing Tommy John surgery in 2010.

The Nationals have been vague about an innings limit, but the team sat Jordan Zimmermann at 161 1-3 innings last season in a similar situation.

Nationals manager Davey Johnson said on Thursday that Strasburg is probably down to "two or three" starts, meaning the final one could come Sept. 7

at home against Miami or Sept. 12 at the New York Mets.

Ian Desmond and Danny Espinosa produced two-out RBI singles in the seventh that lifted Washington. Kurt Suzuki homered and drove in two runs for the Nationals.

The Cardinals rallied in the seventh after Strasburg left with three hits against reliever Sean Burnett, including Daniel Descalso's two-run homer.

Washington responded with four consecutive two-out singles against Lance Lynn (13-6). Desmond's flare to center scored



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg delivers during the first inning of a baseball game with the St. Louis Cardinals at Nationals Park, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

pinch-runner Eury Perez with the go-ahead run. Espinosa had three of the Nationals' 13 hits.

Ryan Mattheus (2-3) pitched 1 1-3 innings, allowing a run on Tony Cruz's RBI double in the eighth. Tyler Clippard, the worked the ninth for his 29th save.

Lynn pitched one inning, allowing two runs on four hits for the Cardinals, who have lost five of six while trying to hold off Pittsburgh for the final NL wild-card berth. Facing the Cardinals for the first time, Strasburg gave up Matt Holliday's two-out double in the first. □



Beauty On The Beach

Marianela Parra

And family are vacationing at Casa del Mar. This is her 20th consecutive year on the Island making her virtually a local.

The Blue Lobster

Texas beats Indians as Profar HRs 1st at bat

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jurickson Profar made quite a debut at age 19, homering in his first major league at-bat as the Texas Rangers beat the Cleveland Indians 8-3 Sunday.

Profar opened the third inning with a drive over the right-field wall, connecting on a 2-1 pitch from Zach McAllister (5-6). Profar doubled his next time up as a late substitute after second baseman Ian Kinsler was scratched with a stiff back. The teen apparently forgot it was his turn to hit in the fifth. With Luis Martinez on first with a single, Pro-

far wasn't even in the on-deck circle. Suddenly, he grabbed a bat, ran to the plate and flied out on the second pitch.

Josh Hamilton, Adrian Beltre and David Murphy all hit solo home runs in the Texas fifth.

Derek Holland (10-6) gave up two runs over seven innings as the AL West-leading Rangers took two of three in the series. Texas matched its best record through 133 games, having also gone 79-54 in 1999. Cleveland dropped to 6-29 since July 27.

Batting ninth, Profar went 2 for 4. □

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Button survives to win crash-marred Belgian GP

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

SPA, Belgium (AP)—Jenson Button kept calm amid the chaos of the crash-marred Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday to record his second win of the season, while Formula One championship frontrunner Fernando Alonso saw his overall lead trimmed after being sent flying off the track following Romain Grosjean's reckless driving.

It was Button's first victory

at Spa and the 14th of the British driver's career—and probably one of the easiest as he led from start to finish, oblivious to the mayhem behind him.

"This is such a special circuit, so to get a victory here from light to flag is very special," Button said. "It hasn't been an easy year for me. We're going to enjoy this for a little while longer before we head to Monza and hopefully do the same."



McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain, yellow helmet left, crashes with Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso of Spain, right, during the first lap of the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix in Spa-Francorchamps, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

Button triumphantly zigzagged across the track as he approached the finish line and then clapped his hands together in celebration. He then stood on his McLaren and leaned his head back as he clenched both fists.

"The car felt very good to drive and I could control the degradation of the tires. It's always easier to do that when you're leading," said Button, who climbed to sixth place overall. □

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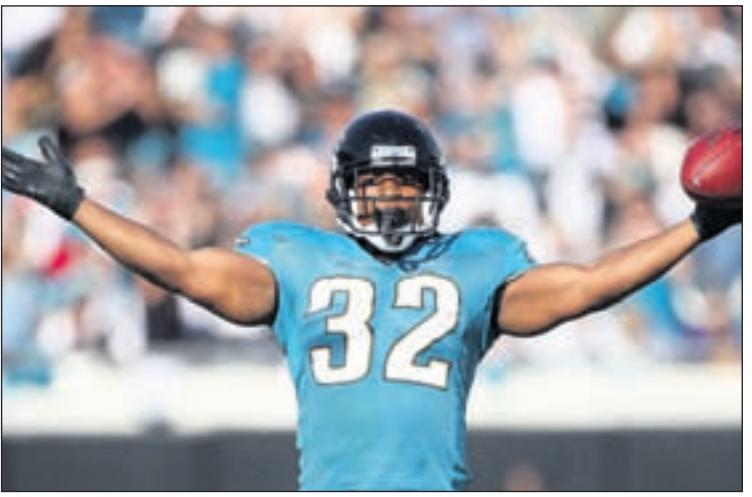
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Jaguars RB Maurice Jones-Drew celebrates a touchdown. The Jacksonville Jaguars running back ended his 38-day holdout Sunday — without a new contract.

(Photo)

Jaguars RB Jones-Drew ends his 38-day holdout

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

— Maurice Jones-Drew remains as passionate as ever about his value. So when the Jacksonville Jaguars running back ended his 38-day holdout Sunday — without a new contract — he had no apologies, no regrets and no concerns about his standing with the franchise. "I'm in a good place," he said. "I did something I felt was right, and I'm always going to feel right. I'm not going to feel wrong for what I did it at all. And that's why I can come back and not have a negative attitude. I think if you regret things, you're going to come back salty, be a distraction, things like that. "I don't feel that way 'cause what I did was right. No one can tell me it was wrong. Not one person here can tell me what I did was wrong."

Jones-Drew arrived at the team facility Sunday morning, chatted with teammates and then had a

40-minute conversation with coach Mike Mularkey. Later, he spent nearly half an hour answering questions about his holdout, even getting to a point where he told reporters to "make sure we all get this out of the way because I'm done after this." "This is the last talk about the whole contract situation," he said. "We're going to move forward to football after this." Jones-Drew considered skipping games, missing paychecks and causing an even bigger distraction for the team. Ultimately, though, he opted to report a week before the season opener. Jacksonville plays at Minnesota next Sunday. "It really wasn't about budging," said Jones-Drew, who took a conditioning test later in the day. "For me, it got to the point where I wasn't going to be traded. Obviously, they weren't going to pay me. I could have easily sat out until Week 10, come back and been a distraction. It wasn't about that. □

Kaka is still hopeful of regaining coach's trust

TALES AZZONI
AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — Kaka said he is working hard to regain the trust of Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho and has not given up hope of becoming a regular starter at the Spanish club again.

The Brazil playmaker said in an interview aired by Globo TV on Sunday that he has a "professional relationship" based on mutual respect with Mourinho. "I've always respected his decisions and never questioned them," Kaka said. □

Fill-in refs raising concerns as NFL season open looms

By DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

After a replay review last week, the announcement came that a call had been upheld so Tampa Bay and Washington prepared to play on.

Wait. The officials weren't quite ready.

"We'll look at it one more time," replacement referee Jim Core told the crowd, the teams and the television audience.

Delays could be a common theme for NFL games once the regular season begins this week, and there are bigger concerns than that.

With no agreement with its locked-out referee union in sight, the league is planning to use replacements for at least the first week of the season. The new crews have seemed to work hard, but a seamless adjustment is impossible in such a short time. Many of the replacements are going from supervising small college games to policing the sport's best athletes in front of deafening 75,000-strong crowds.

This all but promises more of the officiating mistakes that have punctuated otherwise-unimportant exhibition games. The questions — Can they keep the game safe? Can they keep up with the speed? Will they avoid game-changing errors? — will keep coming until the NFL and the regular refs reach a new collective bargaining agreement.

"These crews have officiated our games many, many times. So I think you know and respect and trust their level of expertise and the type of game they are going to call," New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees said of the familiar crews and the looming change. "It's just like on a team if we say we're going to put five rookies in front of you and a bunch of first-year players catching the ball and running the football around you: You just don't have

that same level of trust and confidence."

The NFL insists it does.

"Officiating is an imperfect science," Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "They're not going to be

that New Orleans won the coin toss. Except Arizona did. He immediately made the correction.

Buffalo fans booed when a punt by the Bills was downed at the 4-yard line



San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh, right, arguing with a replacement official during the second quarter of an NFL preseason football game against the Denver Broncos, in Denver. The NFL will open the regular season with replacement officials. League executive Ray Anderson has told the 32 teams that with negotiations remaining at a standstill between the NFL and the officials' union. The replacements will be on the field beginning next Wednesday night, Sept. 5, 2012 when the Cowboys visit the Giants to open the season.

(AP Photo/Joe Mahoney)

correct all the time, but we have systems in place to try to help."

The replacements the league is using aren't used to those systems. With major college refs staying loyal to their current responsibilities, the NFL had to recruit fill-ins from lower levels of the game where the rules are different, the crowds are small and the action unfolds at a slower pace.

"The replacement officials continue to improve every week as we continue to work intensively on their training. Overall, they are doing a good job," league spokesman Greg Aiello said. Maybe so, but the gaffes have been glaring. Penalties called on the wrong players.

Spots of the ball several yards off.

Incomplete or inaccurate explanations of on-field rulings. In the very first exhibition game of 2012, referee Craig Ochoa announced

and the back judge nevertheless ruled the play a touchback. Coach Chan Gailey challenged, and the spot was changed.

In Denver, officials misinterpreted Broncos coach John Fox's attempt to challenge the spot of the ball after the 49ers recovered their own fumble. Fox was actually assessed a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for challenging the recovery before an NFL rep talked with the crew for several minutes on the sideline. The flag was picked up without explanation. San Francisco coach Jim Harbaugh was hollering for the penalty. The refs, at least temporarily, bought his argument.

Playing at Minnesota, San Diego coach Norv Turner had to throw two challenge flags after turnovers forced by his team were disallowed on the field but contradicted by video replays. □

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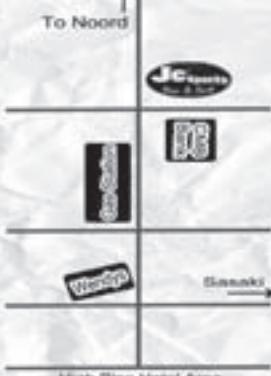
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New York Giants: On top, but still off the radar

SAM BORDEN

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EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. —

In previous years, the Giants have been quick to embrace coach Tom Coughlin's seasonal slogan as a mantra, with the two most notable refrains — "Talk is cheap, play the game" and "Finish" — being featured prominently in the 2007 and 2011 Super Bowl championship seasons.

This year, Coughlin's clarion call — "Build the Bridge," a reference to linking the championship season to this one — lacks a certain poetic value and seems less likely to resonate. Still, a more appropriate motto was perhaps best captured on T-shirts that receiver Victor Cruz distributed to his teammates during training camp. The shirts, part of Cruz's Young Whales clothing line, are emblazoned with a simple statement: Business as Usual.

It is neither dramatic nor flashy, and in many ways, that is the point. The Giants would seem to have everything they need to be the talk of the NFL. They are



New York Giants coach Tom Coughlin during a preseason game against the Chicago Bears at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Aug. 24, 2012. No one seems to be talking about the defending NFL champion Giants at all as they prepare for Wednesday's season opener.

(Ben Solomon/The New York Times)

the defending champions. They have a coach and a quarterback who may be Hall of Famers someday. They have stars, like Cruz and Justin Tuck, who are that rare combination of talented and likable. They have a decent, if not significant, chance to once again make a run to the playoffs and the Super Bowl. Usually in these situations, people are talking about the possibility of a dynasty. In the case of the Giants, however, no one

seems to be talking about them at all. So as the season opens and their title defense begins with Wednesday night's game against Dallas, these are the two most obvious questions: Are the Giants the least-heralded defending champions in recent memory? And does anyone on the team really care? With a few exceptions, most defending Super Bowl champions can be classified in one of four categories.

Empires: These are the teams that are in the midst of a sustained run of excellence, where the obvious issue each season is whether the team's reign will continue. The Pittsburgh Steelers of the late 1970s would fall into this category, as well as the 1990 San Francisco 49ers (two-time defending champions), the 1996 Cowboys (three of the previous four titles) and the 2005 New England Patriots (also three of the previous four).

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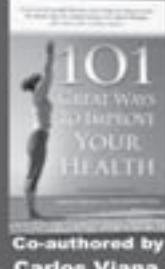
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Hospitals, providers to develop state's only all-member-owned health insurance plan

Chelsea Conaboy

© The New York Times

Tufts Medical Center, its physician group, and the publicly traded parent company of MetroWest and St. Vincent hospitals have been awarded an \$88.5-million loan by the federal government to create what would be the state's only member-owned health insurance plan.

The nonprofit Minuteman Health Initiative expects to offer coverage in Eastern and Central Massachusetts starting in January 2014, and its backers said its ownership structure would help the initiative lower costs. Its products will be sold to individuals and small businesses through insurance brokers and the state's virtual health insurance market, the Massachusetts Health Connector.

With the Massachusetts program, and another announced Friday in Tennessee, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has approved 20 "consumer operated and oriented" plans. The program, created under the Affordable Care Act, is open only to new insurers not licensed before July 2009 and requires the start-up money to be paid back within 15 years.

"We don't have anything on the market like this" in

Massachusetts, said John McDonough, a Harvard health policy professor who had a hand in drafting the federal law. Depending on how it is implemented and received by consumers in the state, McDonough said, the program could become "a belly flop" or



Tufts Medical Center, its physician group, and the publicly traded parent company of MetroWest and St. Vincent hospitals have begun creating what would be the state's only member-owned health insurance plan.

(Photo)

"a disruptive innovation worth watching."

The organizers of the Massachusetts plan, which include Tennessee-based hospital group Vanguard Health Systems, have assembled a panel of industry specialists to get it started. Ultimately, though, members would elect directors and hold a majority

of seats on the board.

"Consumers who are members of this plan will ultimately participate and be in control of the governance long-term," said Ellen Zane, former chief executive of Tufts Medical Center and chairwoman of the plan's starting board. Surpluses beyond what the plan needs to comply with state and federal laws would be returned to members or used to lower premiums, said Eric Beyer, who succeeded Zane as Tufts chief executive. Members would have a say in the design of coverage options, too, he said.

It's not clear which hospitals and doctors would be included in the plan's network. Seventeen have signed letters of support for the plan, but Beyer and others declined to say which.

The plan, which still must get approvals from the state Division of Insurance, is aiming for a "broad base of providers who are willing to work at those rates that are sort of closer to the median" in prices, and it will not accept large disparities in payments to providers, Beyer said. Closing big gaps in how much hospitals and doctors are paid for providing similar care is seen as one way to control rising health costs in Massachusetts. □

FDA approves late-stage prostate cancer medicine

ANDREW POLLACK

© 2012 New York Times

The Food and Drug Administration approved a new life-prolonging drug for men with late-stage prostate cancer, adding to an increasingly crowded field. The new drug, which will be called Xtandi, was developed by Medivation, a small San Francisco pharmaceutical company, in partnership with the Japanese firm Astellas Pharma.

In clinical trials, men who received the drug, which was previously known as MDV3100, lived a median of 18.4 months, nearly five months longer than the median of 13.6 months for those who received a placebo.

While the approval was not a surprise, its timing was. The FDA approved the drug after only a three-month review, three months ahead of the late November deadline. This is fairly rare, although a number of other cancer drugs have been approved at least a month ahead of deadline in recent years.

"The need for additional treatment options for advanced prostate cancer continues to be important," Dr. Richard Pazdur, the director of the agency's cancer drug office, said in a statement.

Xtandi is one of several



new prostate cancer drugs that have come to market in the past two years after a long fallow period. While the new drugs have been good for men with the disease, they could add billions of dollars to the nation's medical bills.

The price of Xtandi was not immediately available, but Geoffrey Porges, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. estimated it would be about \$6,000 a month. Before 2004, the only drug shown to prolong the survival of men with advanced prostate cancer was the chemotherapy drug docetaxel. Now there are four others on the market – Sanofi's Jevtana, Dendreon's Provenge, Johnson & Johnson's Zytiga and Xtandi, which is known generically as enzalutamide.

Xtandi is expected to compete most directly with Zytiga. Both are pills, work in similar ways and are approved for the same patient population – men whose cancer has spread elsewhere in the body or recurred despite treatment aimed at suppressing production of the hormone testosterone, which fuels prostate cancer growth.

Both drugs are approved for men who have already tried docetaxel, though both Medivation and Johnson & Johnson hope to eventually win approval for their drugs to be used before docetaxel, a potentially much larger market. Many patients would prefer to use the pills before having to try chemotherapy. □

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Amazon is taking on Netflix at its own game

DAVID POGUE

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In the olden days, bargains added spice to life. You'd get a free toaster with a new bank account, or a collectible drinking glass with a gas fill-up. Old-timers even claim that at one time, you got free meals on airplanes.

Today, most of that is gone – but streaming movie plans are still around.

Netflix, for example, offers a huge catalog of on-demand movies and TV shows. You can watch as many of them as you want for a fixed \$8 a month. For less than the price of a single movie ticket, you can watch movies until your eyeballs fall out.

Of course, you need a fast Internet connection. You don't get any DVD extras, like featurettes or director commentaries. The picture quality generally isn't even as good as a DVD, let alone a Blu-ray disc.

Still, this service has be-

come hugely popular; Netflix's army of 27 million streaming-video subscribers dwarfs its 9 million DVD-by-mail members. Incredibly, Netflix video streams make up one-quarter of all Internet data transmitted in North America.

The service has had a huge cultural impact. It's led many people to cancel their cable-TV service. (Netflix has "30 Rock," "Lost," "The Office," "Mythbusters," "Monk," "Glee," "South Park," "Downton Abbey" and dozens of other complete series.)

And it's popularized "binge viewing." That's when people watch multiple seasons of a TV show, nonstop, commercial-free, back to back, as their mail piles up and lawns get reclaimed by nature.

So it didn't take long for rivals to start sniffing out the same territory. Big ones, like Amazon.

Instead of paying Netflix \$8 a month, you get Am-



A screenshot of Amazon's streaming-movie service. Amazon challenges Netflix in the streaming-movie arena with a free service through its Amazon Prime membership.

(Handout via The New York Times)

azon's streaming-movie service free with the purchase of an Amazon Prime membership – \$79 a year. (That comes out to \$6.58 a month, although you can't actually pay monthly.) Prime membership started out as an attractive option for people who shop a lot on Amazon: for \$79 a year, you get free two-day shipping on almost any purchase (or \$4 overnight). Then Amazon added those streaming movies to the

socks and tax advice.

Still, Prime is a great deal. Even if you don't care about free shipping or e-book downloads, you're getting unlimited movies for less than Netflix's \$8 a month.

So is that it, then? Has Amazon turned Netflix's streaming-movie plan into an overpriced relic of 2010? Not unless you're getting the same thing for the money. To determine that, you have to ask three questions: What is there to watch? Where can you watch it? And what's the experience of watching like?

What to watch: First of all, let's get some expectation-setting out of the way. □

Samsung:

Apple trying to limit consumer choice

YOUNKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung on Saturday accused Apple of resorting to litigation in an effort to limit consumer choice after the iPhone maker said it was seeking to stop the sale of Galaxy S III smartphones in the United States.

Fresh from its \$1 billion court victory over Samsung Electronics Co, Apple Inc., in a separate case, asked a federal district court in San Jose, California, on Friday to add four more products to a list of Samsung goods that Apple says infringe its

patents.

The new list of 21 products includes Samsung's flagship smartphone Galaxy S III as well as the Galaxy Note, another popular Android phone. If the court finds those devices are infringing Apple's patents and irreparably harming the U.S. company, it could temporarily halt sales in the U.S. market even before the trial begins. The latest accusation is part of a larger, epic struggle over patents and innovation in one of the most lucrative consumer electronics sectors that is unfolding in 10

countries.

The biggest stakes are in the U.S., the world's largest smartphone market in 2011. Last month, a jury in the San Jose court found that Samsung had copied Apple's design innovations and Samsung was ordered to pay Apple \$1.05 billion. Samsung has vowed to appeal the verdict, all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. On Saturday, Samsung denounced Apple's attempt to halt sales of the S III, which hit the 10 million global sales mark in July, less than three months after its release. □

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Churning out startup companies in New York

CLAIRE CAIN MILLER

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Kevin Ryan reclines in a designer chair in his Park Avenue office, wearing a Luciano Barbera suit and a vintage Rolex watch. A picture of Ryan with President Barack Obama is on the wall and an ornate Oscar de la Renta gown hangs from the door.

This is not a man who would blend in among the sneaker-clad startup ranks of Silicon Valley. Yet Ryan, chief executive of the Gilt Groupe and a founder of several prominent Internet companies, is one of the technology world's most influential people, with a career trajectory that mirrors the rise of New York's tech scene.

Ryan and Dwight Merriman run a startup factory called AlleyCorp, after Silicon Alley, a nickname given to New York's answer to Silicon Valley. It has churned out companies that have almost nothing in common, from e-commerce to publishing to database soft-

ware.

When asked about this startup grab bag, Ryan smiled and said, "Are you saying I have a focus problem?"

ny, is a blog publisher with 19 million readers a month, run by Henry Blodget, the infamous former Internet stock analyst. And 10gen, which makes MongoDB, open-

These companies contribute to New York's growing role as an Internet hub, particularly for the new generation of online media and retail companies. Last year, 256 New York tech startups raised \$2.2 billion in investment, up from 149 and \$1.3 billion five years ago, according to the National Venture Capital Association.

"Silicon Valley is on their fifth generation," Ryan said. "We're on our second or third generation of New York entrepreneurs, combined with a bigger and better infrastructure to support it, so the scene is just mushrooming."

Ryan made his name during the first tech boom as chief executive of Double-Click, the digital advertising company that Google bought for \$3.1 billion in 2007.

"He doesn't fit into the Valley mold as much, but he's definitely one of the most prominent people here," said Chris Dixon, a New York tech inves-

tor and entrepreneur. "He went off and did this thing that entrepreneurs fantasize about, starting multiple companies and having them be really successful." Other veteran entrepreneurs are doing variations on the idea of a factory for startups, including Evan Williams and Biz Stone, two of Twitter's founders, who now run a startup lab called Obvious, and Craig Walker, who developed the technology that became Google Voice and now runs Firespotter Labs. Kevin Rose, co-founder of Digg, started a similar company called Milk before joining Google in March.

Ryan compares his formula to dating — try out a bunch of startups and see what sticks. He and Merriman started the companies and then hired people to run them when they began to take off. In the case of Gilt, Ryan hired Alexis Maybank and Alexandra Wilkis Wilson as co-founders, then returned to run it himself once it became big. □



Kevin Ryan, co-founder of Gilt.com and AlleyCorp, in New York. Ryan and Dwight Merriman run AlleyCorp, the start-up factory named after Silicon Alley, which has churned out companies that have almost nothing in common, from e-commerce to publishing to database software.

(Librado Romero/The New York Times)

Gilt.com, which sells luxury goods like designer clothes and vacation packages, is considering going public next year. Business Insider, another AlleyCorp compa-

source database software that is used by companies like Disney and Foursquare, was valued at \$500 million by venture capitalists who invested \$50 million in May.

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COME AND HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TIME

Money Matters:

Investors: Don't shy away from growth stocks!

PAUL J. LIM

© 2012 New York Times

When economic worries rattle the markets, some investors take cover in defensive areas, like slow-but-steady utilities.

This is what has driven the "risk-off" trade that Wall Street types talk about. Yet ignoring faster-growing sectors like technology and industrial shares is a mistake, money managers and investment strategists argue.

For starters, not all classic growth companies depend on a robust economy for their revenue and earnings growth. "Too many people throw tech and industrials under the bus when global growth is slowing," says Brian G. Belski, the chief investment strategist for BMO Capital Markets.

Indeed, in a year in which the global economy is expanding at a subpar rate of 2.6 percent, tech and industrials are enjoying some of the fastest earnings growth in the market.

The consensus among Wall Street analysts is that profits for tech companies in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index will grow

9 percent this year, while industrial-sector earnings are expected to climb 10.6 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ. By comparison,

apt to be more volatile than profits for slow growers. He studied corporate earnings results for the various sectors over the last decade



The facade of a Texas Instruments production plant. Shares of the semiconductor giant Texas Instruments, which has a big presence in the growing smartphone market, have sunk about 15 percent since late March, when the market shifted to a decidedly risk-off stance. If investors can tolerate the near-term volatility in a stock like this, "it's got a nice long-term story," says Bradley P. Hinton, director of research and a portfolio manager at Weitz Funds, which owns Texas Instruments shares.

profits are expected to rise only around 4 percent for companies in the broad market.

Belski added that it's unfair to assume that earnings for companies that are growing faster than average are

and discovered that technology stocks "showed the largest increase in earnings stability."

"People underestimate how this sector has changed over the past 10 years," he said.

Robert E. Turner, chairman of Turner Investment Partners, argues that it is in just

these types of markets – when the economy is struggling to pick up speed – when classic growth stocks often shine. "Growth does better when the economy is modest because investors value companies that can grow their earnings regardless of the economic backdrop," he said.

When gross domestic product was expanding only modestly from 1993 to 1995, for instance, growth stocks in the S&P 500 outperformed value-oriented shares.

There's another impor-

tant advantage to growth stocks these days: they're relatively cheap.

While earnings for tech and industrial companies are growing faster than the broad market, stocks in these sectors are trading at an average price/earnings ratio of 13.3 based on projected profits, according to Bloomberg.

That's slightly below the P/E ratio for the overall S&P 500 and is a notable discount to the defensive utilities sector, with an average P/E of 15.

"Only twice in the last 20 years have tech stocks sold at a discount relative to utilities," Turner says. □

Source:

NY probing equity firms, including Bain

MICHAEL GORMLEY
Associated Press

ALBANY, New York (AP) —

An official familiar with the probe says New York's attorney general is investigating some of the largest U.S. private equity firms, including Bain Capital, founded by Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

The official spoke on the

condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the probe. It is examining whether the firms used a tax strategy to avoid paying hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes. The practice involved converting some fees collected for managing accounts into fund investments, resulting in a lower tax rate. □

The New York Times first reported the investigation of more than a dozen firms. Tax experts tell the Times they have differing views about the strategy's legality.

Though Romney collects benefits as a Bain retired partner, the inquiry isn't focused on the time he ran Bain. □

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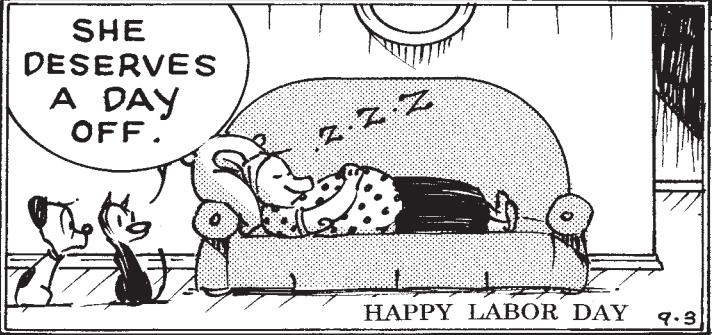
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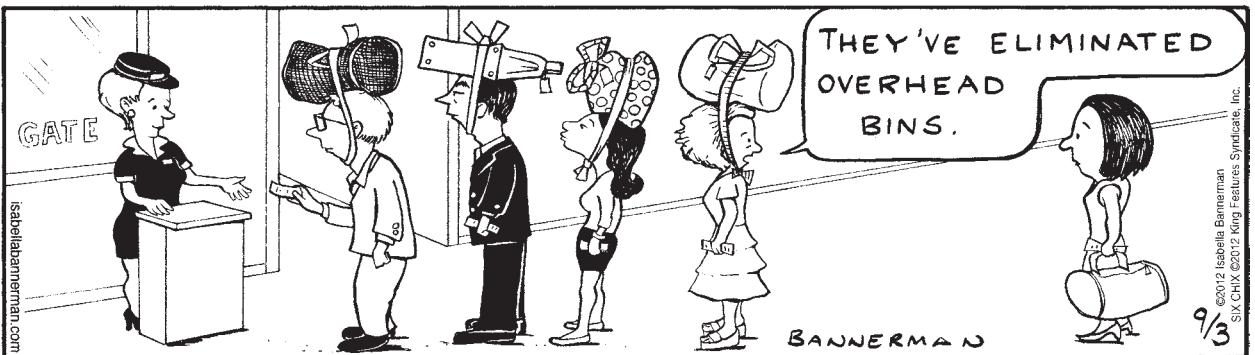
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8	5	7	2
6	7	9	4
2	3	7	9
1	8	2	6
	1	5	4
3	6	8	9
7	3	5	2

Difficulty Level ★

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9/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

4	1	9	3	6	2	5	7	8
8	3	6	5	1	7	2	4	9
2	5	7	8	9	4	1	6	3
7	2	8	1	5	6	3	9	4
3	6	1	9	4	8	7	5	2
5	9	4	7	2	3	8	1	6
6	4	5	2	3	1	9	8	7
9	8	2	6	7	5	4	3	1
1	7	3	4	8	9	6	2	5

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	2	3			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17				18						19			
	20			21						22			
		23				24	25						
26	27	28			29	30				31	32	33	
34			35							36			
37			38			39							
40		41			42								
43	44				45								
	46				47								
48	49	50			51	52	53			54	55		
56			57							58		59	
60			61							62			
63			64							65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/3/12

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	O	D	O	F	O	T	E	N	C	L	A	D
I	R	O	N	F	A	I	R	Y	R	I	C	E
G	A	V	E	F	I	N	A	L	E	M	M	A
S	L	E	N	D	E	R	S	O	A	B	E	D
E	R	R	E	N	E	S	E	R	G	E	N	S
S	A	S	S	Y	D	A	D	T	E	A	C	H
L	I	P	S		R	A	M	M	I	S	E	R
A	S	A	T	U	M	B	L	M	S	E	P	R
B	L	I	T	H	E	L	A	W	V	I	C	E
S	E	N	O	R	D	E	C	P	E	K	S	S
P	O	K	E	R	F	A	R					
S	U	M	B	E	R	F	U	R	T			
P	A	S	O	B	I	B	L	W				
I	K	E	S	A	V	A	I	L				
N	E	S	T	B	E	R	T	S				

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9/3/12

35 Cow comments 47 Shy and fearful
38 Apes and 48 Shirts & halters
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39 for; going 50 Easy stride
toward 52 Look for
41 Certain vote 53 Indian robe
42 Warmth 54 Midday
44 Sparkling 55 Hindu teacher
45 Throws 59 Hair bonnet

Legendary songwriter Hal David dies in LA at 91

BOB THOMAS
CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hal David, the stylish, heartfelt lyricist who teamed with Burt Bacharach on dozens of timeless songs for movies, television and a variety of recording artists in the 1960s and beyond, has died. He was 91.

David died of complications from a stroke Saturday morning at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, according to his wife Eunice David. He had suffered a major stroke in March and was stricken again on Tuesday, she said. "Even at the end, Hal always had a song in his head," Eunice David said. "He was always writing notes, or asking me to take a note down, so he wouldn't forget a lyric."

Bacharach and David were among the most successful teams in modern history, with top 40 hits including "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head," "(They Long to Be) Close to You" and "That's What Friends Are For."

Although most associated with Dionne Warwick, their music was recorded by many of the top acts of their time, from Barbra Streisand to Frank Sinatra and Aretha Franklin. They won an Oscar for "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" (from the movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"), Grammys and Tonys for the songs from the hit Broadway musical "Promises, Promises."

David joined the board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 1974 and served as president 1980 to 1986. He was head of the Songwriters Hall of Fame

from 2001 to 2011, and was Chairman Emeritus at his death.

"As a lyric writer, Hal was simple, concise and poetic -- conveying volumes of meaning in fewest possible



This Oct. 17, 2011 file photo shows legendary songwriters Bert Bacharach, left, and Hal David pose with singer Dionne Warwick at the "Love, Sweet Love" musical tribute to Hal David on his 90th birthday in Los Angeles, Calif. David, who along with partner Bert Bacharach penned dozens of top 40 hits for a variety of recording artists in the 1960s and beyond, died Saturday Sept. 1, 2012 in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Vince Bucci)

words and always in service to the music," ASCAP's current president, the songwriter Paul Williams, said in a statement. "It is no wonder that so many of his lyrics have become part of our everyday vocabulary and his songs... the backdrop of our lives."

In May, Bacharach and David received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song during a White House tribute concert attended by President Barack Obama.

Bacharach, 83, thanked Obama, saying the award for his life's work topped even the Oscars and Grammys he won for individual projects. David could not attend because he was re-

covering from a stroke. Eunice David accepted on his behalf.

"It was thrilling," she said. "Even though he wasn't there, Hal said it was the highest honor he had ever

tivity, they captured the emotions of our daily lives — the good times, the bad times, and everything in between."

David and Bacharach met when both worked in the Brill Building, New York's legendary Tin Pan Alley song factory where writers cranked out songs and attempted to sell them to music publishers. They scored their first big hit with "Magic Moments," a million-selling record for Perry Como.

In 1962 they began writing for a young singer named Dionne Warwick, whose versatile voice conveyed the emotion of David's lyrics and easily handled the changing patterns of Bacharach's melodies. Together the trio created a succession of popular songs including "Don't Make Me Over," "Walk On By," "I Say a Little Prayer," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose," "Trains and Boats and Planes," "Anyone Who Has a Heart," "You'll Never Get to Heaven" and "Always Something There to Remind Me," a hit in the 1980s for the synth pop band Naked Eyes.

Bacharach and David also wrote hits for numerous other singers: "This Guy's in Love with You" (trumpeter Herb Alpert in his vocal debut), "Make It Easy on Yourself" (Jerry Butler), "What the World Needs Now is Love" (Jackie DeShannon) and "Wishin' and Hopin'" (Dusty Springfield). □



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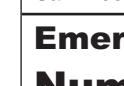
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Jay-Z mimics Rocky at Philly Made In America fest

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jay-Z's entrance said it all: He bounced up and down on top of the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, mimicking Rocky before he took the stage in front of nearly 50,000.

His song "Made In America" played in the background.

Jay-Z, like Rocky Balboa, has a rags-to-riches American dream story, and the 42-year-old entertainer — who grew up in the Brooklyn projects and released his debut album in 1996 — shared some of that through songs in his 90-minute set Saturday night at the Budweiser Made In America festival.

He entered from the back of the stage after running down the steps to perform "Public Service Announcement." That was followed with the night's first cameo:

a prerecorded video with President Barack Obama. Obama urged the crowd to vote this fall.

He also said Jay-Z's story is "what Made In America means" and added that he enjoys listening to the rapper's music on his iPod. Jay-Z headlined the first night of the two-day festival he curated, performing hits like "99 Problems," "Dirt Off Your Shoulder," "Big Pimpin'" and "Empire State of Mind."

The event is the first of its kind for the entrepreneurial Jay-Z, who is married to superstar Beyoncé and owns a music management company, fashion line, nightclub and restaurant; he's also a co-owner of the Brooklyn Nets.

"Since you were so good to me, Philly, I'm going to be good to you tonight, Philly," Jay-Z yelled.

Rappers Pusta T and Big Sean hit the stage, and



Jay-Z performs at the "Made In America" music festival on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2012, in Philadelphia, PA.

(Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP)

Kanye West followed, receiving an electrifying roar from the crowd. They performed a medley of hits, such as "Mercy," "Dance" and "Can't Tell Me Nothing."

Jay-Z also brought out his former protégés and Phila-

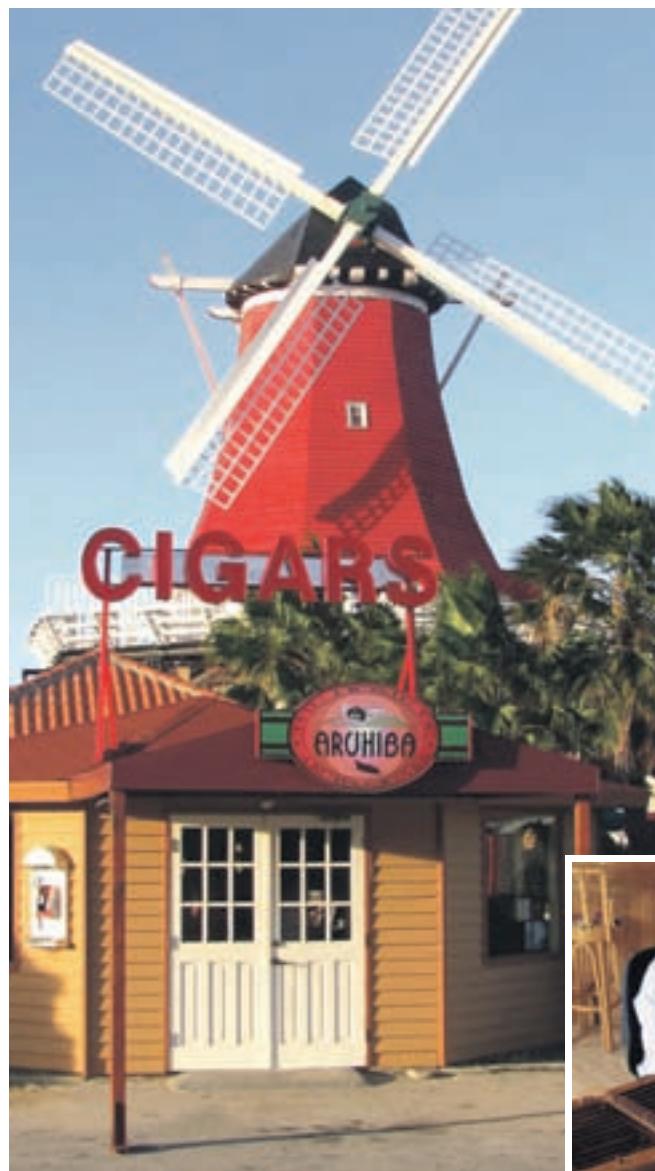
delphians Freeway, Chris and Neff, as well as Memphis Bleek. Common, 2 Chainz and Swizz Beatz also made appearances.

The scene was colorful and energetic, as thousands of music fans shifted from the three stages on the Ben-

jamin Franklin Parkway to watch Skrillex, D'Angelo, Passion Pit, Janelle Monae, Calvin Harris and 10 other acts. Sunday's line-up includes Pearl Jam, Run DMC, Odd Future and Drake, who was in the crowd Saturday night. □

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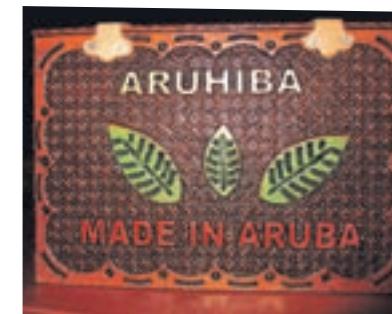


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store

located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort

and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.

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Inspired by L. Ron Hubbard, 'The Master' debuts in Venice

COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Director Paul Thomas Anderson acknowledges that Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard was the inspiration for the title character in "The Master," but says the focus of the film is the relationship between a charismatic spiritual leader and his troubled follower, not the movement itself.

The movie, set in the 1950s, stars Philip Seymour Hoffman as a charismatic cult leader who captivates a tortured but sympathetic World War II veteran portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix. "The narrative is just driven by these two guys, and their love for each other," Anderson told a news conference on Saturday ahead of the highly anticipated film's world premiere

caster Dodd, was inspired by Hubbard "is not an elephant in the room."

"I really don't know a whole hell of a lot about Scientology, particularly now," he said. "But I do know a lot about the beginning of the movement and it inspired me to use it as a backdrop for these characters."

Phoenix's character, Freddie Quell, is completely unhinged, unable to keep a job, drinking anything that will give him a buzz, including liquid siphoned from a ship's missile, and displaying a wide range of inappropriate behaviors throughout his journey in Dodd's entourage.

Phoenix, appearing in his first movie in several years, himself displayed some mildly erratic behavior during the news conference, fidgeting, lighting up sev-



From left, producer JoAnne Sellar, actors Joaquin Phoenix, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Director Paul Thomas Anderson pose at the photo call for the film 'The Master' at the 69th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 1, 2012.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

in competition at the Venice Film Festival.

Anderson sought to quickly dispel any speculation about the film's influence on his friendship with Tom Cruise, who starred in Anderson's 1999 film "Magnolia" and whose Scientology beliefs are well-documented.

"We are still friends. I showed him the film, and the rest is between us," Anderson said.

Anderson said the fact that Hoffman's character, Lan-

eral cigarettes and leaving the dais to go back stage at one point for two minutes.

Hoffman, Phoenix's costar, on one side and Anderson on the other tried to ignore the antics.

Phoenix responded to just one question, about how he approached the character, appeared impervious to the others, and he drew boos from news photographers when he cut his photo call off after just 14 seconds. □

Hollywood's hot summer heads south as films fizzle

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Studio executives expected their biggest summer ever this year as they loaded their lineup with huge action movies and superhero franchises.

What they got were two colossal blockbusters, a handful of backup hits and plenty of duds that just didn't deliver, resulting in what may prove the lowest summer movie attendance in 20 years.

While domestic revenues are projected to come in as the second-best ever, the number of tickets sold shrank to about 532 million from the first weekend in May through Labor Day, down 4 percent from summer 2011, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com. If that holds by the time final ticket sales are counted through Monday, that would be the smallest audiences Hollywood has packed in for its busiest season dating back to 1993, the earliest summer revenue data maintained by Hollywood.com.

Revenues should finish at \$4.27 billion from the first weekend in May through Labor Day, down 3 percent from the record of \$4.4 billion set last summer, said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

"On paper, the summer of 2012 looked like a clear record-breaker. I think a lot of us were expecting we could beat last summer just based on the titles, the sheer number of blockbuster titles that were in the mix," Dergarabedian said. "But the audience is what makes and breaks the summer, and they didn't come out in the numbers we expected for a lot of these films."

Summer was ending quietly over Labor Day weekend, with overall revenues through Sunday down slightly compared to the same period a year ago. Domestic sales totaled \$102 million, off 4.6 percent

from last year's Labor Day weekend, according to Hollywood.com.

The horror tale "The Possession" debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$17.7 mil-

when 534 million tickets were sold. A strong Labor Day weekend could put this summer on par with 2010 attendance, but it's still a soft season consid-



Christian Bale as Bruce Wayne, left, and Michael Caine as Alfred in a scene from the "The Dark Knight Rises." Studio executives expected their biggest summer ever this year. What they got were two colossal hits ("The Avengers" and "The Dark Knight Rises"), a solid slate of back-up blockbusters (among them "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "Ted") and plenty of duds ("Battlefield," "Total Recall") that just didn't deliver.

(AP Photo/Warner Bros. Pictures, Ron Phillips)

lion from Friday to Sunday, compared to \$14.6 million for the top draw a year ago, "The Help," which joined "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" to give Hollywood a strong seasonal finish that made summer 2011 a record-breaker.

Before this summer arrived, Hollywood was on a box-office tear, with revenues up as much as 20 percent over 2011's. Studio executives hoped that would continue into summer, when they had what looked like the best lineup they've ever offered.

Instead of beating last summer's record, though, revenues for the season fell for the first time in seven years. The picture gets worse factoring in higher admission prices. While revenues this time were well above the \$3.6 billion haul in 2005, the last time summer dollars dipped, this season's estimated 532 million admissions is well below the 563 million tickets sold in summer 2005.

In the 20-year span since 1993, Dergarabedian said the only year that comes close to this season's attendance was summer 2010,

ering expectations at the start, when the superhero sensation "The Avengers" launched with a record \$207.4 million debut over the first weekend in May.

"The beginning of summer is like the first day of spring training or the opening of football camp. You have to hope your summer's going to be great," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution at Disney, which released "The Avengers." "But it's hard to say what's going to connect or click."

"The Avengers" took in \$618 million domestically and the Batman finale "The Dark Knight Rises" so far has added about \$430 million, their \$1.05 billion total amounting to nearly one-fourth of Hollywood's overall summer haul. Worldwide, "The Avengers" has pulled in \$1.5 billion, while "The Dark Knight Rises" soon will cross the \$1 billion mark. Summer's third superhero saga, "The Amazing Spider-Man," climbed to \$258 million domestically, while the animated adventures "Brave" and "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" both were \$200 million hits. □

Franklin Delano Romney



ROSS DOUTHAT

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The last time the United States held a presidential election amid the mass unemployment left in a financial crisis' wake, the challenger offered only a partial glimpse of what he would actually do in office. Mostly, he played the opportunist, attacking the incumbent party for spending too much and helping too little, for being indifferent to human suffering and for failing to balance the budget, for overtaxing and undertaxing and everywhere in between. He claimed to be offering a bold contrast of visions, but mostly he just relied on the unemployment rate to do his work for him.

That challenger was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. His 1932 convention speech – the first ever delivered by a nominee in person – was more detailed than the parade of generalities Mitt Romney offered last Thursday. But mostly it was a sprawl of unpersuasive economic analysis and highly convenient criticisms of the hapless Herbert Hoover. Hearing it or reading it, you would have known that FDR intended to govern as some sort of liberal, as you would know from Romney's speech that he intends to govern as a conservative. But you would be able to anticipate only the broadest outlines of the policy experimentation that ultimately defined the New Deal.

Romney's version of Roosevelt's campaign strategy is far less certain to succeed. Roosevelt was running with unemployment in the mid-20s; Romney is running with 8 percent. Hoover had actually presided over the financial crisis; Barack Obama merely inherited it – and from a Republican president, at that. FDR cruised to a landslide; Romney's play-it-safe strategy seems designed to win 51 percent at most.

But if Romney does win, his studied vagueness and generic Republican rhetoric may leave him with much more room to maneuver in office than either the left or right currently expects.

On the left, it's an article of faith that the Republican nominee is effectively a hostage to the most ideological elements in his party, and that he'll be forced to march in lockstep with them even if his own instincts suggest a different path.

Among conservatives, the choice of Paul Ryan persuaded many Romney doubters that the candidate has definitively embraced the congressional Republican

agenda as his own.

Both assumptions may be wrong. Of course a President Romney would have to operate within the broad framework of conservatism. But the left probably understates how much power he would have to shape and even redefine that framework, and how invested his fellow Republican officeholders (as opposed to movement activists) would be in making his first term a success.

The right, meanwhile, may be misreading the import of the Ryan pick. It's no doubt a sign that Romney intends to pursue at least some of Ryan's entitlement reform proposals once in office. But it's also a move that brings a potential critic and rival inside the administration's camp, transforming a spokesman for conservatism into a salesman for the Romney White House's agenda – whether that agenda fits movement orthodoxy or not.

None of this is to say that Romney has a detailed "secret plan," as Bloomberg View's Josh Barro has provocatively suggested, to bail out underwater homeowners or play the right-wing Keynesian on deficits or raise taxes in some sort of bipartisan grand bargain.

Rather, it's more likely that the Republican nominee is behaving like an executive being considered for a CEO job at a high-profile but mismanaged company. He's trying to tell his job interviewers (both conservative and independent) roughly what they want to hear, while leaving enough flexibility to be able to do things his way once he sees what's actually under the company's hood.

If there was a persistent and persuasive theme in his convention address, and in Ann Romney's as well, it didn't have anything to do with deficits or taxes or Medicare reform or foreign policy. It was the promise of hard work – work on behalf of "you and your family," work in pursuit of "jobs, lots of jobs," work that would "solve the problems that others say can't be solved" and "fix what others say is beyond repair."

One can hear in this rhetoric a kind of right-of-center rhyme to Roosevelt's campaign promise of "bold, persistent experimentation," his exhortation to "above all, try something," without necessarily specifying what that something might be.

This parallel is not necessarily an advertisement for Romney. Liberal nostalgia notwithstanding, Roosevelt failed as often as he flourished, and boldness and experimentation untempered by principle and modesty have been responsible for many more recent presidential failures as well.

But if you're looking for a best-case scenario for a Romney presidency, you have to hope that his Mr. Fix-It impulses will work out for the best – and that rather than being a model of moderation or a paragon of purity, he'll be a president who tries, and tries, and ultimately gets things right. □



Only The Good Get Rich



GAIL COLLINS

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As the Republican convention fades into oblivion, the one thing everybody is still talking about is, of course, the party platform.

Honest. You should see the tweets. The convention was so full of opportunities to catch a glimpse of celebrities like John Sununu and Rudy Giuliani that I didn't get around to the platform until the flight back from Tampa. But it was so worth the wait. Really, I could hardly take my eyes away from it long enough to watch the flight attendant demonstrate how to use a seat buckle.

As you'd expect, there were paeans to things Republicans like (phonics, Israel, coal, English, defense spending, transparency for everything except political donations) and denunciations of the stuff they hate (Obamacare, mass transit, the Law of the Sea Treaty, Venezuela, teachers' unions, Obamacare). But you may be interested to know that the proven methods of improving school performance are high standards, accountability and "renewed focus on the Constitution and the writings of the Founding Fathers."

Some of the recommendations are stunning. Besides the inevitable tribute to the Second Amendment, the platform goes to the

trouble of specifically mentioning that Republicans are against limiting the sale of those extra-bullet magazines for guns that maximized the victim count in the mass shootings in Tucson, Colorado and Wisconsin.

Please, keep that in mind. Whenever there's a gun capable of spraying 100 bullets, there's a Republican platform behind it.

But the most startling sentence is in the preamble, where the Republicans announce they are the party with "a positive, optimistic view of an opportunity society where any American who works hard, dreams big and follows the rules can achieve anything he or she wants."

People, do you think the Republican hierarchy really believes that working hard and playing by the rules is a guarantee of big-dream fulfillment? This is a worldview you usually only hear before the first elimination round on "American Idol."

No wonder they don't like food stamps and unemployment compensation.

The platform provides some welcome hints about what the Romney ticket stands for. We do need help on that point because when it comes to actual plans, Romney-Ryan has been pretty opaque.

Leaving Tampa, we knew no more about the big Medicare issue than when we arrived. The biggest Republican talking point is that the Obama health care reform will, in the words of Mitt Romney, "hurt today's seniors." That's all about the \$716 billion in projected long-term savings, except that Ryan had the same cut in his budget plans and what the heck are we supposed to make of that?

Fortunately, Fortune magazine asked the House majority leader, Eric Cantor, that question during the convention, and Cantor was able to clear it all up thusly: "The assumption was that, um, the, the, ah, again – I probably can't speak to that in an exact way, so I better just not."

So, OK.

The big, if-not-quite-articulated, message in Tampa was that in a free economy, everybody will get what they deserve. There is no need to worry about the vast, growing gap between the richest and the rest, or the shrinking middle class, or the fact that America currently has one of the worst rates of social mobility in the developed world.

Untrammeled, the business sector will create plenty of jobs, and the hard-working big-dreamers will jump in, amass wealth and achieve success. You cut taxes, reduce regulation and let the magic happen. It's that or what Paul Ryan called "a dull adventureless journey from one entitlement to the next, a government-planned life, a country where everything is free but us."

Listening to the convention speeches, it was easy to get the impression that every high-ranking Republican in the country had parents who were truck drivers or convenience store workers who moved up entirely through their own efforts. Also, there were a lot of grandfathers who worked in the mines. Republicans love mines, particularly coal mines. This is partly because of their big donors, but the fact that environmentalists hate coal makes coal mines even more adorable.

And the miners themselves are always sympathetic figures because they work hard and play by the rules. As a result, their biggest dreams have been realized, and they are able to spend their lives underground developing chronic pulmonary disease.

Shortly before the convention, Romney had pressed the coal theme with an appearance in Ohio, where he stood with a group of sooty miners whose sad, solemn faces seemed to underscore their concern about big government. Also, some of them later told the media that they had been required to show up and weren't paid for the day.

The reward will undoubtedly arrive at a later date. □

Where's Walden? GPS often doesn't know

JESS BIDGOOD

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LYNN, Mass. — Walden Pond, Henry David Thoreau's idyllic retreat in the woods of Concord, Mass., has long been one of the most famous day trips in New England, drawing droves of visitors seeking the tranquil beauty immortalized in the 19th-century philosopher's writings. But some 21st-century

conveniences — namely Google maps and some GPS devices — have been leading a distractingly of travelers to the wrong Walden: an identically named reservoir, next to a golf course, in this old industrial center on Massachusetts' North Shore. "I pulled up to that park and felt like I was in a county park — any old local county park," said A.N. Devers, a

writer from Brooklyn who has visited dozens of writers' houses and was hoping to add one more during a trip to Boston this summer. Devers had entered the phrase "Walden Pond" into Google and cross-referenced directions on her iPhone. As in more than a dozen tests on iPhones, Android phones and Google searches, she was pointed here, to a reservoir named



A replica of Henry David Thoreau's retreat cabin at Walden Pond near Concord, Mass., Aug. 24, 2012. Despite 21st-century conveniences, the original Walden Pond in the woods of Concord, Mass., remains hard to find, as some GPS devices have been wrongly leading a distractingly of travelers to an identically named body of water in Lynn, Mass. (Evan McGinn/The New York Times)

for Edwin Walden, the president of this city's water board in the late 1800s. "I do think I knew somewhere in the back of my head that Walden was near Concord," Devers said. But like many wayfarers in a world increasingly reliant on GPS devices, "I just didn't really process the directions." On its support website, Google says it considers the user's location, in part, to determine its mapping search results — but a search from Cambridge, Mass., for example, returns Lynn's reservoir, even though the Concord pond is closer in both miles and travel time. Although the simple phrase "Walden Pond" tends to pull up the Lynn reservoir, additional autocomplete options do show the site in Concord. "It happens all the time," said Dan Small, the ranger for Lynn Woods, where the reservoir is. Dick Katin, a ranger at the neighboring golf course, has found himself zooming over the green in his cart to collect misdirected visitors who wander through the fairway, seeking Walden. "Which is very dangerous," he said.

"They don't pay attention when they're walking through here. They think they're on a trail hiking or whatever." □

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